

From the Editor . . .

After the 1988 Conference, several members expressed an interest in an issue of *Explorations in Ethnic Studies* which would focus on ethnicity and health. We were fortunate to receive a number of submissions in this area, and this issue includes an article by Ella P. Lacey which reports on pica and the ethnic and cultural implications of the use of pica as well as the limited reporting of that use. NAES member Jim Schnell wrote us after he returned from China and sent along the essay on Chinese medicine. Jim's essay is a personal response to recent information about an ancient tradition and might prompt further study about this collaborative view of medicine. We believed that his insights would be of interest to our readers. Another essay on medicine will be published in the July issue. The other two contributions to this issue examine issues of concern to those interested particularly in Jewish studies. The definition of ethnicity has been the focus of scholars such as Werner Sollars in *Beyond Ethnicity* and Ronald Takaki in *From These Shores*. The questions about Jewish studies examined by Howard Adelman could as easily be asked of black, American Indian, Asian, or Chicano studies. Alan Spector provides a comparative study of two groups, both of which have been stereotyped in ways which appear to be positive but ultimately result in negative responses from others. Although these essays are quite diverse in content, the issues raised are all appropriate to a journal which seeks to explore the issues of ethnicity in all their dimensions. Some writers, such as Adelman, question the academy and its curriculum while Spector deals with the average person's response to ethnic differences. Others, such as Lacey and Schnell, recognize the implications of ethnicity in the medical profession and in both the national and international communities. As always, the critiques force readers to look beyond the immediate research to the possibilities for further study.

—Gretchen M. Bataille